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8 June

**CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL**

2003

8 June 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robert F. Woodward
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Inter-American Affairs
Department of State

SUBJECT : Search and Seizure of Arms in Caribbean Traffic

1. Considering further the information we were discussing yesterday, I thought we might be able to combine logically the statements on the legal basis for search with the broad mutual interests in the area. After the reference to the statutory authority of the Coast Guard and the penalty provisions for false manifesting, the thought could proceed in this manner.

Not only would the presence of arms on board this ship unidentified as such and manifested as general merchandise be a violation of United States law, but also by its concealment would indicate that its presence was inimical to the interests of peace and good order in an area intimately bound with the national defense and security of the United States as well as with the security interests of all those having similar interests and responsibilities in the area. Even though such material was not found in the cargo, it is believed that the best interest of Her Majesty's Government as well as that of the United States was served by taking the necessary legal action on the basis of information received.

2. You would probably want to rephrase the above if used, but I have written it out to indicate my thought that there is nothing incompatible in the two lines of argument. Furthermore, I wonder if in preparing an international convention on control of armed shipments in that area the same general thought could not be followed, i.e., that concealed or clandestine shipments are per se when inimical to the best interests of all parties signatory to the convention and subject to seizure under set

conditions. I should think this would be more acceptable than any attempt to obtain a general embargo and would, if the convention were properly phrased, permit the United States Coast Guard to take action on the high seas under Section 89(a) of Title 14.

/S/

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

cc: C/Economic Warfare

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